

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting the decrease of active-oxygen-eliminating activity of at least one member selected from the group consisting of alpha-glucosyl hesperidin and catechin, comprising adding to a composition comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of alpha-glucosyl hesperidin and catechin trehalose in an amount of at least 20 w/w% trehalose on a dry solid basis.

2. The method according to claim 1 which further comprises at least one step selected from the group consisting of sterilizing and drying.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the trehalose is in an amorphous or crystalline hydrous form.

4. A method for inhibiting the decrease of active-oxygen-eliminating activity of a plant substance comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of alpha-glucosyl hesperidin and catechin comprising incorporating trehalose in an amount of at least 20 w/w% trehalose on a dry solid basis into said plant substance.

5. The method according to claim 4 which further comprises at least one step selected from the group consisting of sterilizing and drying.

6. The method according to claim 4 wherein the plant substance is treated with water to provide a liquid or suspension.

7. The method according to claim 4 wherein the plant substance is an edible part of a plant in the form of a sliced, disrupted, pulverized, dried, or extracted plant form.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the trehalose is in an amorphous or crystalline hydrous form.